

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 09380 01 OF 02 061120Z

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 L-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OES-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01

FS-01 EB-04 SP-02 CPR-01 SCA-01 /046 W

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R 060845Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5233

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 9380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, IAEA, UNIDO, AU

SUBJECT: APPLICATION OF VALUE-ADDED TAX TO INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTERED IN AUSTRIA

1. SUMMARY: IAEA AND UNIDO HAVE REACHED FULL AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE WITH AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT
OF VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) PAID IN OFFICIAL PURCHASES BY
ORGANIZATIONS, ON TERMS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO
LATTER. APPLICATION OF VAT TO INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL SERVANTS ENJOYING DIPLOMATIC P&I IS STILL OPEN PENDING
RESOLUTION OF SAME QUESTION AS APPLICABLE TO DIPLOMATIC
CORPS ACCREDITED TO AUSTRIA; ORGANIZATIONS' RESPECTIVE
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PAGE 02 IAEA V 09380 01 OF 02 061120Z

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS WOULD PROVIDE FOR SIMILAR ARRANGE-

MENTS TO BE APPLICABLE TO SUCH STAFF MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. IAEA LEGAL DIVISION (RAINER) PROVIDED MISOFF WITH BRIEFING ON AGREEMENTS REACHED AT MEETING BETWEEN AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIALS OF IAEA AND UNIDO DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 28 REGARDING LONG-STANDING QUESTION OF APPLICATION OF VAT TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS. AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WERE, RAINER STATED, QUITE SATISFACTORY TO ORGANIZATIONS, IDENTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL APPLY TO IAEA AND TO UNIDO. AS ORGANIZATIONS HAD REQUESTED, AGREED ARRANGEMENTS WILL UPON ENTRY INTO FORCE BE RETROACTIVE W EFFECT TO JANUARY 1, 1973, WHEN FORMER AUSTRIAN TURNOVER TAX WAS REPLACED BY VAT.

3. GENERARLLY, AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO ORGANIZATIONS (NOT RPT NOT EXEMPTION FROM PAYING VAT IN FIRST PLACE) BY GOA OF AMOUNTS PAID AS VAT ON TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING ANY AND ALL PURCHASES BY ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR SERVICES RENDERED TO ORGANIZATIONS, WHERE NET AMOUNT OF INVOICES FOR SINGLE TRANSACTIONS EXCLUSIVE OF VAT EXCEEDS AS 1000 (APPROX US \$55) AND WHERE AMOUNT OF VAT IS SEPARATELY STATED ON INVOICE. REIMBURSEMENTS SHALL APPLY ONLY TO SINGLE TRANSACTIONS AND RUNNING ACCOUNTS (I.E., SEPARATE TRANSACTIONS COVERING AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME INVOICED TOGETHER FOR TAX PURPOSES) WILL NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED. FYI: RAINER STATED THAT ORGANIZATIONS HAD AGREED TO LATTER POINT IN EXCHANGE FOR LOWER EXCLUSION LIMIT OF AS 1000 PER TRANSACTION WHICH THEY HAD SOUGHT. ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT RPT NOT FORESEE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH RESTRICTION OF REIMBURSEMENT APPLICABILITY TO SINGLE TRANSACTIONS; RATHER, IN VIEW OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN ADMINISTERING REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH TURNOVER TAX, WHICH INVOLVED RUNNING ACCOUNTS COMBINED WITH MUCH HIGHER LIMIT, THEY REGARDED SINGLE TRANSACTIONS WITH AS 1000 EXCLUSION LIMIT AS POTENTIALLY MUCH SIMPLER AND EASIER ARRANGEMENT TO ADMINISTER. END FYI.

4. AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE THAT ORGANIZATIONS FURNISH GOA WITH LISTING OF AMOUNTS CLAIMED AS REIMBURSEMENTS EVERY SIX MONTHS; GOA WILL REIMBURSE FOR AMOUNTS CLAIMED ON SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 IAEA V 09380 01 OF 02 061120Z

SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS. ORGANIZATIONS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT COPIES OF EVERY INVOICE FOR WHICH REIMBURSEMENT IS CLAIMED, BUT GOA WILL HAVE RIGHT UNDER FORMAL AGREEMENT, WHEN CONCLUDED, TO INSPECT ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS INCLUDING INVOICES ON WHICH CLAIMS ARE BASED. FYI: THIS ARRANGEMENT IS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH APPLIED TO TURNOVER TAX, AND IS AIMED LARGELY AT ELIMINATING POINTLESS PAPER-HANDLING BY GOA AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND EXCESSIVE

REPRODUCTION COSTS FOR INVOICES. END FYI.

5. OFFICIAL PURCHASES BY ORGANIZATIONS, UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT, WILL RPT WILL INCLUDE PURCHASES OF ITEMS DESTINED FOR SALE BY IAEA AND UNIDO COMMISSARIES, DESPITE FACT THAT THESE GOODS ARE INTENDED FOR RESLAE TO QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF SECRETARIATS. FYI: IN NEITHER CASE IS COMMISSARY A SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITY; BOTH ORGANIZATIONS MAKE COMMISSARY PURCHASES ROUTINELY IN NAME OF ORGANIZATION. END FYI. OTHER THAN THIS, HOWEVER, RAINER STATED THAT NO RPT NO CASE EXISTED WHERE ORGANIZATIONS AS SUCH MADE ANY PURCHASES IN THEIR OWN NAMES ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS; THIS POINT WAS APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA, AND RAINER STATED NO ONE FORESAW ANY CHANCE OF ITS ARISING IN PRACTICE.

6. REIMBURSEMENT OF VAT WILL APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER GOODS OR SERVICES INVOLVED WERE OF AUSTRIAN ORIGIN OR WERE OF NON-AUSTRIAN ORIGIN PROCURED FROM AUSTRIAN VENDOR. DUTY-FREE IMPORT PRIVILEGES FOR NON-AUSTRIAN GOODS OR SERVICES PROCURED OUTSIDE AUSTRIA WILL NOT RPT NOT BE AFFECTED BY VAT ARRANGEMENTS APPLICABLE TO TRANSACTIONS TAKING PLACE AND SUBJECT TO VAT IN AUSTRIA.

7. RAINER STATED THAT ABOVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WILL BE EMBODIED SHORTLY (POSSIBLY WITHIN MONTH, CERTAINLY NOT MUCH LONGER) IN TWO SEPARATE BUT ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 09380 02 OF 02 061103Z

15

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 L-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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R 060845Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5234

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 9380

FORMAL SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS TO HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN GOA ON ONE HAND AND IAEA AND UN, ON BEHALF
OF UNIDO, ON OTHER. ONLY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN THESE
AGREEMENTS (ASIDE FROM MINOR DETAILS SUCH AS NAMES OF
ORGANIZATION CONCERNED) WILL BE THAT AGREEMENT WITH IAEA
WILL FORMALLY TERMINATE EXISTING SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT
TO IAEA HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT, DATING FROM 1958, WHICH
PROVIDED ARRANGEMENTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO AGENCY OF
TURNOVER TAX; NO SUCH FORMAL AGREEMENT REGARDING TURNOVER
TAX WAS EVERY COMPLETED BETWEEN GOA AND UNIDO. ON AUSTRIAN
SIDE, FINAL AGREEMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CABINET FOR
APPROVAL (PROCESS WHICH WILL TAKE AT LEAST 2-3 WEEKS AFTER
FINAL TEXT IS INITIALED), BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE
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PAGE 02 IAEA V 09380 02 OF 02 061103Z

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION. ON ORGANIZATIONAL SIDE, RAINER
STATED NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AS YET, BUT
THAT PRELIMINARY OPINION WAS THAT AGREEMENT WOULD NOT RPT
NOT REQUIRE FORMAL SUBMISSION TO IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS,
BUT COULD BE CONCLUDED BY DG ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY (AND,
HE PRESUMED SUBJECT TO FURTHER WORD FROM NEW YORK, BY
UNSYG ON BEHALF OF UNIDO AS WELL).

8. RAINER STATED THAT ABOVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE APPLIES
ONLY TO TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS AS SUCH, AND
DOES NOT RPT NOT RELATE IN ANY WAY TO TRANSACTIONS BY
INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS ENJOYING DIPLOMATIC
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (I.E., OFFICIALS OF EITHER
ORGANIZATION WITH GRADE P-5 AND ABOVE). ORGANIZATIONS
WERE KEEPING APPRISED OF SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
GOA AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO AUSTRIA. UNDER
TERMS OF ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS, IT WOULD
BE ROUTINE PRACTICE THAT ANY ARRANGEMENTS MADE BETWEEN
GOA AND CORPS RELATING TO APPLICABILITY OF VAT TO TRANS-

ACTIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUAL DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO AUSTRIA WOULD APPLY ALSO TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS WITH COMPARABLE P&I. ON QUESTION FROM MISOFF, RAINER STATED THAT THIS POINT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN EXPLICITLY ADDRESSED IN ORGANIZATIONS' DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA, BUT THAT IN VIEW OF WORDING OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS AND PAST PRACTICE, HE FORESAW NO RPT NO LIKELY PROBLEMS IN APPLYING ANY AGREEMENT WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS AS WELL, AND THAT AFTER ALL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA HE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO RPT NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT GOA WOULD NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO APPLY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS WHEN THEY WERE FINALLY AGREED BETWEEN GOA AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GOA HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT SEPARATE MISSIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND MEMBERS OF STAFFS AS INDIVIDUALS, WILL RECEIVE TREATMENT REGARDING VAT IDENTICAL TO THAT ACCORDED TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO GOA.

9. REGARDING INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS OF GRADES P-4 AND BELOW, WHOSE P&I IS LIMITED UNDER HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS, RAINER STATED THAT HE COULD SEE NO RPT NO REASONABLE CHANCE THAT GOA WOULD AGREE TO ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 IAEA V 09380 02 OF 02 061103Z

EMPTION OR REIMBURSEMENT OF VAT TO SUCH INDIVIDUALS; HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS GAVE NO REAL GROUNDS FOR SUCH CLAIM, IN HIS (UNOFFICIAL BUT HIGHLY INFORMED) VIEW, AND HE COULD SEE NO OTHER BASIS FOR A CLAIM OF THIS TYPE.

10. RAINER STATED THAT THIS FINAL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS HAD MOVED EXTREMELY SMOOTHLY AND HAD BEEN VERY HARMONIOUS, WITH GOA EVIDENTLY ANXIOUS TO REACH AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE COULD OFFER NO RPT NO GOOD REASON FOR LONG DELAY, OR FOR RATHER UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE WHICH ORGANIZATIONS HAD NOTED PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN QUARTERS OF FINANCE MINISTRY (FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN ORGANIZATION'S CORNER), BEYOND USUAL TENDENCY FOR LOWER-LEVEL BUREAUCRATS TO DELAY SUCH MATTERS UNTIL JOGGED BY SUPERIORS. IN THIS CASE, APPARENTLY, DIRECT APPROACHES BY IAEA AND UNIDO TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY AND BY FONMIN TO FINANCE MINISTER ANDROSCH WERE THINGS THAT BROKE THROUGH THE DEADLOCK.

11. MISSION WILL ADVISE IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS DURING FORMALIZATION OF ABOVE AGREEMENTS WHICH AFFECT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OUTLINED ABOVE IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL WAY.LABOWTIZ

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